



ASHBURNHAM

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Nestled in the picturesque hills of northern Worcester County, the Town of Ashburnham is a quintessential New England community. The residents are proud of the town's heritage and reputation as a vacation paradise. The town has over 20 lakes, eight of significant size. These lakes continue to draw vacationers and part-time residents from all parts of the Northeast. During a summer weekend, the population balloons from 5,000 to over 10,000. The 1980's were a time of significant growth in Ashburnham, the population increased by approximately 40% as new residents were attracted to the natural beauty, moderate tax rates, home values and excellent school system of the community. In addition to its natural beauty, Ashburnham is the home of the prestigious preparatory school, Cushing Academy, which draws its 400 students from all over the world.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

North central Massachusetts, bordered by Rindge and New Ipswich, New Hampshire, on the north; Ashby on the east; Westminster on the south; Gardner on the southwest; and Winchendon on the west. Ashburnham is 9 miles north of Fitchburg, 31 miles north of Worcester, 55 miles northwest of Boston, and 200 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 41.00 sq. miles

Land Area: 38.67 sq. miles

Population: 5,433

Density: 140 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Barre Falls Dam Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.0°F

Normal temperature in July.....67.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.1"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Ashburnham, Gardner, Ashby, Fitchburg

Regional Planning Agency

Montachusett

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Fitchburg-Leominster



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 827-5733

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1765

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

Number	%
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Total Registered 2,899

Democrats 790 27.3 % Republicans 395 13.6 % Other parties 0 0.0 % Unenrolled Voters 1,714 59.1 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Ashburnham town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	5,546	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	5,546	100.0
Male.....	2,817	50.8	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	92	1.7
Female.....	2,729	49.2	Mexican.....	11	0.2
Under 5 years.....	332	6.0	Puerto Rican.....	36	0.6
5 to 9 years.....	423	7.6	Cuban.....	4	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	549	9.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	41	0.7
15 to 19 years.....	442	8.0	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	5,454	98.3
20 to 24 years.....	234	4.2	White alone.....	5,350	96.5
25 to 34 years.....	579	10.4	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,135	20.5	Total population.....	5,546	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	927	16.7	In households.....	5,528	99.7
55 to 59 years.....	261	4.7	Householder.....	1,929	34.8
60 to 64 years.....	172	3.1	Spouse.....	1,288	23.2
65 to 74 years.....	281	5.1	Child.....	1,922	34.7
75 to 84 years.....	173	3.1	Own child under 18 years.....	1,512	27.3
85 years and over.....	38	0.7	Other relatives.....	177	3.2
Median age (years).....	37.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	64	1.2
18 years and over.....	3,940	71.0	Nonrelatives.....	212	3.8
Male.....	1,963	35.4	Unmarried partner.....	120	2.2
Female.....	1,977	35.6	In group quarters.....	18	0.3
21 years and over.....	3,737	67.4	Institutionalized population.....	17	0.3
62 years and over.....	588	10.6	Noninstitutionalized population.....	1	-
65 years and over.....	492	8.9	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	221	4.0	Total households.....	1,929	100.0
Female.....	271	4.9	Family households (families).....	1,541	79.9
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	810	42.0
One race.....	5,481	98.8	Married-couple family.....	1,288	66.8
White.....	5,416	97.7	With own children under 18 years.....	653	33.9
Black or African American.....	12	0.2	Female householder, no husband present.....	179	9.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	2	-	With own children under 18 years.....	114	5.9
Asian.....	34	0.6	Nonfamily households.....	388	20.1
Asian Indian.....	4	0.1	Householder living alone.....	301	15.6
Chinese.....	9	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	104	5.4
Filipino.....	2	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	853	44.2
Japanese.....	3	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	339	17.6
Korean.....	4	0.1	Average household size.....	2.87	(X)
Vietnamese.....	5	0.1	Average family size.....	3.20	(X)
Other Asian ¹	7	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	2,204	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,929	87.5
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	275	12.5
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	207	9.4
Some other race.....	17	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.0	(X)
Two or more races.....	65	1.2	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.8	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	1,929	100.0
White.....	5,481	98.8	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,714	88.9
Black or African American.....	25	0.5	Renter-occupied housing units.....	215	11.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	25	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.92	(X)
Asian.....	44	0.8	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.42	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	37	0.7			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The principal highway is State Route 2, the old Mohawk Trail, which runs across northern Massachusetts. State Route 140 and Interstate 190 connect the region to Worcester. The Springfield Terminal Railway line (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) parallels Route 2 and provides access to the network of intermodal facilities serving central and eastern Massachusetts.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 12, which runs from Fitchburg into New Hampshire; State Route 101; and State Route 119.

Rail

Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number: (978) 663-1073.

Bus

Ashburnham is a member of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MRTA), which provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled through the Council on Aging.

Other

The Fitchburg Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 4,511' and 3,502' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Naukeag Hospital Corporation

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

Ashburnham Rest Home, Inc.

Sunnyvale Rest Home

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.